

5 **PRINTING METHOD AND APPARATUS HAVING MULTIPLE RASTER
 IMAGE PROCESSORS**

ABSTRACT

10 The invention provides a printing method and apparatus, comprising a software application
 that works with proprietary printing utilities, and that may include one or more additional
 software components for adding additional printing technology. The invention also
 comprises an automatic print load-balancing component in a centralized or distributed raster
15 image processing (RIP) printing environment that enables faster system performance over
 single or multiple processors.